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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Second session
New York, 12-23 May 2003
Agenda item 3
Theme of the session: "Indigenous children and youth"

Draft recommendations submitted by the Rapporteur

Indigenous children and youth

1. As stated in its report on its first session,[1] the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues decided to make indigenous children and youth a focal point of its work in the years to come. The Forum reconfirms its commitment to do so, and acknowledges the efforts made by indigenous organizations, United Nations agencies and States in the past year to tackle the urgent needs of the young generation, including the decision of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to declare indigenous children as the subject for its theme day, to be held in September 2003.

2. The Forum reiterates the requests and recommendations made in its report on its first session, and in addition:

(a) Encourages United Nations bodies whose activities have an impact on indigenous children and youth, including but not limited to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, to report regularly to the Forum. The reports should contain detailed information on and assess the progress made within programmes directed at, affecting and relating to indigenous adolescents.

(b) Reiterates its request that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as the United Nations nodal agency on children:

- Present a comprehensive report to the Forum on an annual basis, including budgetary allocations and an assessment of their impact, including details of all its initiatives undertaken in collaboration with other specialized bodies of

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the United Nations system relating to indigenous children and those undertaken at the international or regional levels as well as country initiatives, where applicable.

- Provide information from the multi-indicator cluster survey being globally undertaken by UNICEF, disaggregating data on the antenatal health, birth, registration, immunization and early childhood development of indigenous children.

3. The Forum welcomes the participation of the Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the high-level panel and dialogue on indigenous children and youth held during its second session, takes note with satisfaction of the fact that the Committee will devote a day of general discussion to indigenous children on 19 September 2003, with the participation of UNICEF, and expresses hope that that will lead to enhanced monitoring and promotion of the rights of indigenous children at the national and international levels. The Forum recommends that the Chairman of the Committee inform the next meeting of the Chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies of the results of the high-level panel and dialogue. The Forum requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to transmit the results of the discussion of the Committee to the Forum at its third session.

4. The Forum recommends that the Inter-Agency Support Group discuss how to promote the cross-cutting issue of children and youth.

5. The Forum notes that in order for it and the United Nations system to review the situation of indigenous children and youth, there is a need for country-specific situation analyses. Given UNICEF's unique and long experience and expertise in that area, the Forum invites UNICEF to initiate such situation analyses on indigenous children by field offices in countries with indigenous communities. The Forum also invites UNICEF to transmit such situation analyses to the Forum.

6. The Forum is deeply concerned that particular problems and discrimination are faced by indigenous children and youth, including in the areas of education, health, culture, extreme poverty, mortality, incarceration, labour and other relevant areas. The Forum notes the need for new indicators to be developed by the United Nations that will specifically target those problems, and in that regard invites UNICEF to develop such new indicators and share them with other entities of the United Nations system, especially UNESCO.

7. The Forum welcomes the new initiatives undertaken by UNICEF with regard to indigenous children, in particular the ongoing development of a digest on the indigenous child, as well as a number of case studies aimed at understanding development programming to fulfil the rights of indigenous children. The Forum requests UNICEF to make the digest and the results of those studies available to the Forum at its third session.

8. The Forum requests UNICEF, in cooperation with the ILO, UNESCO and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to assess the training needs that exist regarding issues faced by indigenous children and youth at the national and regional levels, and to report to the Forum at its fourth session on ways that the United Nations system can assist in capacity-building in that area.

9. The Forum welcomes the inclusion in the 2003 Ibero-American Summit of a focus on indigenous children, and requests UNICEF to report to the Forum on the

results of the Summit in that area, and to indicate how lessons can be learned and policy approaches improved concerning indigenous children in other parts of the world with indigenous peoples, specifically Asia and Africa.

10. The Forum urges UNICEF to develop its policy on and guidelines regarding indigenous peoples in time for the third session of the Forum.

11. The Forum recommends that UNICEF consider the appointment of a goodwill ambassador of indigenous children and youth to raise public awareness, and calls upon States and civil society to initiate and speed up programmes targeting the urgent needs of indigenous adolescents within their domains.

12. Aware of the massive exodus of indigenous youth to the alien environments of cities around the world and the discrimination, socio-economic hardships, weakened family networks and drug abuse, among others, affecting those youngsters and "street children", the Forum requests the World Bank and UNICEF to conduct an in-depth comparative study of legal frameworks and social programmes addressing indigenous urban youth in selected countries. The study should assess key problems and best practices, and should provide recommendations for the formulation of policies and strategies for future action.

13. The Forum recommends that the United Nations system, in particular the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, UNICEF and WHO, in collaboration with Governments and in consultation with indigenous peoples' organizations, prepare a policy and a plan of action to address the issues related to the trafficking and sexual exploitation of indigenous girls, as well as to their corresponding rehabilitation in a dignified manner, and report to the Forum at its third session on action taken by the United Nations system. It also recommends that UNESCO conduct research on the causes of trafficking, and that Governments put in place mechanisms of control against child trafficking, especially judicial measures, and that they take coercive measures against multilateral corporations and houses of sexual exploitation (*maisons de tolerance*) that exploit those trafficked children.

14. The Forum invites the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, within the purview of his mandate, to pay special attention to and make recommendations concerning the human rights of indigenous children.

15. In order to promote further knowledge of the Forum and the role of the United Nations among indigenous children and youth, the Forum decides to organize an indigenous youth art competition for the design of a logo for the Forum and to present the results to the Forum at its fourth session, in 2005, with the highest participation of indigenous children, including illiterate children.

16. The Forum recommends that Governments and the United Nations system prepare specific policies on indigenous children and youth and that they implement programmes, in close coordination with indigenous peoples' organizations, to promote the enjoyment of the human rights of indigenous children and youth; strengthen, recover and conserve their indigenous languages; reaffirm their traditional knowledge; promote their culture and education; respect their practice of indigenous spirituality; and contribute to their self-esteem. For that purpose, the Forum recommends the creation of special centres for indigenous children and youth, in close coordination with indigenous peoples' organizations.

17. The Forum, taking into account the large number of incarcerated indigenous children and youth and the need to assist them in reintegrating in society as soon as possible through socio-educational measures, recommends that the Economic and Social Council urge Governments to ensure greater protection and humane treatment of those children and youth while in prison and youth detention centres, and to provide them with socio-educational measures for their rehabilitation.

18. The Forum, taking into account that indigenous children, youth and women are more vulnerable and are often physically and psychologically mistreated, and that children represent the future of indigenous peoples, recommends that the Council support the declaration of an international day or an international year of the indigenous child, to be celebrated with awareness-raising activities to honour the cultural identity of indigenous peoples.

19. The Forum recommends that UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, the ILO, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNFPA and other United Nations bodies, in collaboration with Governments and in close coordination with indigenous peoples, prepare a Latin American conference of indigenous children and youth in 2004, taking into account the experience of the Subregional Conference of Indigenous Youth and Children, held in Quito in 2001.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 23* (E/2002/43/Rev.1), chap. I, sect. B, para. 31.

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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Agenda item 3
Theme of the session: "Indigenous children and youth"

Draft recommendations submitted by the Rapporteur

Indigenous children and youth

1. As stated in its report on its first session,[1] the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues decided to make indigenous children and youth a focal point of its work in the years to come. The Forum reconfirms its commitment to do so, and acknowledges the efforts made by organizations representing indigenous peoples, United Nations agencies and States in the past year to tackle the urgent needs of the young generation, including the decision of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to declare indigenous children as the subject for its theme day, to be held in September 2003.

2. Recognizing the progress made, and building on the recommendations made in its report on its first session, the Forum provides the following advice and recommendations:

(a) Encourages United Nations bodies whose activities have an impact on indigenous children and youth, including, but not limited to, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, to report regularly to the Forum. The reports should contain detailed information on and assess the progress made within programmes directed at, affecting and relating to indigenous adolescents.

(b) Reiterates its request that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as the United Nations nodal agency on children:

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- Present a comprehensive report to the Forum on an annual basis, including budgetary allocations and an assessment of their impact, including details of all its initiatives undertaken in collaboration with other specialized bodies of the United Nations system relating to indigenous children and those undertaken at the international or regional levels, as well as country initiatives, where applicable;

- Provide information from the multi-indicator cluster survey being globally undertaken by UNICEF, disaggregating data on the antenatal health, birth, registration, immunization and early childhood development of indigenous children.

3. The Forum welcomes the participation of the Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the high-level panel and dialogue on indigenous children and youth held during its second session, and expresses the hope that that will lead to enhanced monitoring and promotion of the rights of indigenous children at the national and international levels. The Forum recommends that the Chairman of the Committee inform the next meeting of the Chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies of the results of the high-level panel and dialogue. The Forum requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) to transmit the results of the discussion of the Committee to the Forum at its third session.

4. The Forum recommends that the Inter-Agency Support Group discuss how to promote the cross-cutting issue of children and youth.

5. The Forum notes that in order for it and the United Nations system to review the situation of indigenous children and youth, there is a need for country-specific situation analyses. Given UNICEF's unique and long experience and expertise in that area, the Forum invites UNICEF to initiate such situation analyses on indigenous children by field offices in countries with indigenous communities. The Forum also invites UNICEF to transmit such situation analyses to the Forum.

6. The Forum is deeply concerned that particular problems and discrimination are faced by indigenous children and youth, including in the areas of education, health, culture, extreme poverty, mortality, incarceration, labour and other relevant areas. The Forum notes the need for new indicators to be developed by the United Nations that will specifically target those problems, and in that regard invites UNICEF to develop such new indicators and share them with other entities of the United Nations system, especially UNESCO.

7. The Forum welcomes the new initiatives undertaken by UNICEF with regard to indigenous children, in particular the ongoing development of a digest on the indigenous child, as well as a number of case studies aimed at understanding development programming to fulfil the rights of indigenous children. The Forum requests UNICEF to make the digest and the results of those studies available to the Forum at its third session.

8. The Forum requests UNICEF, in cooperation with ILO, UNESCO and UNHCR to report to the Forum at its fourth session on ways that the United Nations system can assist in capacity-building in that area.

9. The Forum welcomes the inclusion in the 2003 Ibero-American Summit of a focus on indigenous children, and requests UNICEF to report to the Forum on the

results of the Summit in that area, and to indicate how lessons can be learned and policy approaches improved concerning indigenous children in other parts of the world with indigenous peoples, specifically Asia and Africa.

10. The Forum urges UNICEF to develop its policy on and guidelines regarding indigenous peoples in time for the third session of the Forum.

11. The Forum recommends that UNICEF consider the appointment of a goodwill ambassador of indigenous children and youth to raise public awareness and that it urge all UNICEF ambassadors to pay attention to the specific problems of indigenous children and youth.

12. Aware of the massive exodus of indigenous youth to the alien environments of cities around the world and the discrimination, socio-economic hardships, weakened family networks and drug abuse, inter alia, affecting those youngsters and "street children", the Forum requests the World Bank, ILO and UNICEF to conduct an in-depth comparative study of legal frameworks and social programmes addressing indigenous urban youth in selected countries. The study should assess key problems and best practices and should provide recommendations for the formulation of policies and strategies for future action.

13. The Forum recommends that the United Nations system, in particular UNICEF and WHO, in collaboration with Governments and in consultation with indigenous peoples' organizations, and with the participation and input from the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, address issues related to the trafficking and sexual exploitation of indigenous girls, and urges States to create programmes of rehabilitation.

14. The Forum invites the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, within the purview of his mandate, to pay special attention to and make recommendations concerning the rights of indigenous children.

15. In order to promote further knowledge of the Forum and the role of the United Nations among indigenous children and youth, the Forum decides to organize an indigenous youth art competition for the design of a logo for the Forum and to present the results to the Forum at its fourth session, in 2005, with the highest participation of indigenous children, including illiterate children.

16. The Forum, taking into account the large number of incarcerated indigenous children and youth and the need to assist them in reintegrating into society as soon as possible through socio-educational measures, recommends that the Economic and Social Council urge Governments to ensure greater protection and humane treatment of those children and youth while in prison and youth detention centres, and to provide them with socio-educational measures for their rehabilitation.

17. The Forum, taking into account that indigenous children, youth and women are more vulnerable and are often physically and psychologically mistreated, and that children represent the future of indigenous peoples, recommends that the Council support the declaration of an international day or an international year of the indigenous child, to be celebrated with awareness-raising activities to honour the cultural identity of indigenous peoples.

18. The Forum recommends that UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, ILO, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNFPA and other United Nations bodies, in collaboration with Governments and in close coordination with indigenous peoples, prepare a Latin American conference of indigenous children and youth in 2004, taking into account the experience of the Subregional Conference of Indigenous Youth and Children, held in Quito in 2001.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 23* (E/2002/43/Rev.1), chap. I, sect. B, para. 31.

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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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New York, 12-23 May 2003
Agenda item 3
Theme of the session: "Indigenous children and youth"

Chairperson's summary of the high-level panel and dialogue on indigenous children and youth

Panel members

1. Nina Pacari Vega, Foreign Minister of Ecuador, introduced the high-level panel, noting the importance of identity and the movement of indigenous peoples out of the social arena and into the political arena. She discussed the issues faced by indigenous peoples, including racism, discrimination and marginalization. She noted that the international decade had not reached its goals and that it was necessary to consider a second decade. Recognizing and respecting indigenous identities, languages and traditional knowledge would give strength to indigenous peoples. Indigenous children and youth must be involved in the formation of policies which affected them. She emphasized that the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues should work to make the rights of the child the reality of indigenous children and youth.

2. Jaap Doek, Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, discussed the Convention on the Rights of the Child (article 30) and noted that it was almost the same as article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with one important difference — article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child specifically mentioned the indigenous child. The Committee paid particular attention to the rights of indigenous children, who often experienced discrimination in educational and social services in general. It would hold an indigenous children's day on 19 September 2003 in Geneva. The objectives of the special day were to develop policies and programmes for the consideration of the international and national communities. Mr. Doek called for a second decade of action.

3. Ida Nicolaisen noted that members had made indigenous children a high priority for the second session. Protecting indigenous children and youth was about protecting the future of humankind — they constituted a "fund of opportunity". She noted that indigenous young people were resourceful and there was an obligation to remove structural barriers which hampered that future. The issue of indigenous youth cut across all the mandates areas of the Forum, requiring cooperation between

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United Nations agencies. She noted the need for disaggregated data on young indigenous people to allow the Forum, the United Nations system and Governments to identify bottlenecks and to form a strategy for the elimination of obstacles. She urged the World Bank, which possessed a treasure of disaggregated data, to take a lead, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations agencies, in producing country-specific reports, which would be most useful and provide examples of the interface between indigenous children and structural obstacles. Ms. Nicolaisen noted the increasing migration (urbanization) of indigenous young people to cities, with all the problems that went with that. She recommended that a study be conducted by the United Nations system of legal frameworks and social programmes which focused on the urban indigenous child. She would welcome the appointment by the World Intellectual Property Organization of a good-will ambassador of indigenous children and youth. A considerable part of the Earth's rich cultural heritage was held in trust by indigenous peoples. For the world to preserve that, young indigenous people must be given a chance to follow their cultural ways.

4. Elizabeth Garret, a representative of indigenous youth, noted that the rights of the indigenous child were protected when the rights of indigenous peoples were protected. Indigenous youth had heeded the experience of their predecessors in the United Nations system and had become familiar with the various human rights instruments. Youth participation was limited by the lack of consistent funding for participation in both national and international arenas. She noted that indigenous youth were currently playing an advisory role with the United Nations Environment Programme. Data collection was still an outstanding problem concerning indigenous youth. Indigenous youth should have priorities in culturally appropriate education and training. Mentoring by experienced elders and other youth was a useful support strategy for young indigenous peoples. She noted that the United States of America and Somalia remained the only United Nations Member States that had not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and expressed the hope that they would do so. Capacity-building and the recognition of self-determination were strategies for addressing indigenous youth's futures.

5. Nils Kastberg (United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)) underlined that indigenous children and youth were marginalized in many of the protections afforded to others. They were often hidden in statistics of national averages. The right to non-discrimination and other rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child must be a reality for the indigenous child. Children had rights to a protective environment, equity in access to basic services and participation in society. UNICEF had as a core to its work the principle of non-discrimination, and noted that much greater efforts were required to make a difference.

6. Lee Swepston (the International Labour Organization (ILO)) spoke about the worst forms of child labour and other factors that severely impacted indigenous children. The ILO took a rights-based approach. ILO Convention No. 169 also specifically referred to indigenous children in articles 26, 27, 28 and 29. Indigenous realities were rarely captured in non-disaggregated data.

7. Jones Kyazze (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) noted that for UNESCO, indigenous peoples issues were cross-cutting and went to the core of UNESCO's work on culture, social and human sciences and upholding human rights. Education was one of the major aims of the

international decade of the world's indigenous peoples and one of the chief platforms of UNESCO.

8. Jackie Simms (World Health Organization (WHO)) spoke about the indigenous children's environmental health issues. Household water, sanitation, and internal and external pollution were the environmental risks to the indigenous child. Those were multiple risks and must be tackled where children spent most of their time — in the home and the school. Indigenous children and indigenous communities were especially at risk because of a lack of community infrastructure and access to basic services, especially fresh water, sanitation and adequate housing. The future involvement of the indigenous child relied on them having good health immediately.

Forum members

9. Marcos Matias Alonso underlined that the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two optional protocols should be ratified by all nations. He noted emerging issues, such as child labour, which had become another form of slavery. Conflicts producing indigenous refugees and immigrants contributed to the vulnerability of the indigenous child. He expressed with concern the use of child soldiers and others who became the victims of sexual and physical abuse. The right to education and health were still denied to many indigenous children. He recommended the establishment of an inter-agency programme to address indigenous children's issues. He noted that the advances made for indigenous children by various Member States should also be recognized.

10. Willie Littlechild stressed the importance of sports and physical development and play, which were part of education and included in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Ms. Mililani Trask asked UNICEF for advice on how to refine current data collection by UNICEF for a more comprehensive analysis of the situation. Mrs. Qin noted the importance of youth to the future and noted that indigenous cultures could not be allowed to die out. She added that the Forum needed to strengthen the Forum's work with other agencies to ensure a broad cooperative approach. Ms. Njuma Ekundanayo added that work was being done with estimates rather than statistics because of the marginalization of indigenous peoples and the lack of disaggregated data. She noted that indigenous peoples were made into minorities by such things as wars, famine and disease, to name a few.

Member States

11. Mexico called for new ways of dealing with those issues — holistic complementary ways. Mexico also had failures in that area but there was a desire to move ahead in new ways. A number of Member States stressed the real desire to address indigenous children and youth issues in collaboration with indigenous peoples, and noted successful youth projects from various regions. A number of States also noted successes in areas of health and education and the need for good practices to be promoted. Brazil mentioned successful demographic recovery and Finland discussed the revitalization of language skills and use of culturally relevant curricula.

United Nations system

12. UNICEF noted the needs for Governments to collect the primary data on indigenous peoples, and the United Nations system needed to build on that. The ILO

noted that the United Nations system was looking at those issues in a collaborative fashion. UNESCO discussed the inclusion of indigenous youth in various UNESCO forums. WHO welcomed the inter-agency approach and the involvement of indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples organizations

13. Anna Pinto, Centre for Organization, Research and Education, noted that indigenous children suffered from the same issues as all children — but more so. Indigenous children were impacted in more severe ways. Globalization had also impacted indigenous children, promoting fast foods and ways of being that were not in harmony with indigenous beliefs. Too often, the money spent on good work was exceeded a thousand times over by the money spent on destruction of the environment and other negative things. Other indigenous speakers talked of disturbing rates of suicide (First Nations Canada); the overrepresentation of youth in detention; youth subject to sex trade (Elders Caucus); the murder of indigenous women (Women's Caucus, Canada); the need for youth to channel their energies and creative abilities into artistic activities (World Council of Churches); violence against indigenous peoples (COICA); children stolen (CISA); the great need for culturally sensitive education in the mother tongue; and such topics as substance abuse, cultural erosion and the need to ensure that indigenous young people had futures of opportunities. A representative from Canada spoke about the high incidence of foetal-alcohol syndrome among indigenous children, which was 300 per cent that of non-indigenous children. Indigenous youth suicide rates suggested that indigenous youth believed that they had more reason to die than to live. Many indigenous peoples organizations spoke about children and youth issues, including endemic health problems, substance abuse, family dysfunction, violence, overrepresentation in custody, youth suicide and culturally inappropriate education. Many also spoke about possible solutions, such as family-based youth support, employment opportunities and culturally appropriate service delivery in such areas as education, training and health. The Unity Rider and Run 2004, which would open the International Elders Summit, extended an open invitation for participation.

Summary

14. Ida Nicolaisen, Forum Member with a portfolio for indigenous children and youth, noted the necessity for cooperation and collaboration by the United Nations system, and emphasized the need for Governments not to compartmentalize and marginalize indigenous peoples. She also noted the inadequacy of the laws, programmes and funds available to address indigenous disadvantage, especially to address young peoples' issues, noting that they represented the future. She stressed the need for streamlining policies and focusing programmes on children and youth, respectively, and to facilitate the participation of adolescents in meetings. She also highlighted good work and good practices in youth support projects and indigenous appropriate education, and emphasized that such good work needed to be enhanced and accelerated.

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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Methods of work of the Forum with the United Nations system

Chairperson's summary of discussion

Methods of work of the Forum with the United Nations system

Data disaggregation

1. Jackie Sims (World Health Organization) reported on and summarized the United Nations paper on the disaggregation of data. She suggested that the present recommendation could capitalize on the global trends of data collection. She also noted that ethnicity could be inserted into the Millennium Development Goals but that both qualitative and quantitative data was needed. It was also noted that the nature of data collected was governed by the purpose for which it would be used. She suggested that a working group or workshop on data collection be established to advance the issue.

2. Willie Littlechild asked if the recognition or non-recognition of the term "indigenous peoples" affected the global collection of data on indigenous peoples. Ms. Sims provided an explanation of the difficulties of using the term "indigenous peoples" on a worldwide basis. She also stressed that the paper provided represented a very preliminary look at the issues involving data collection. Mr. Kouevi noted that there might be differences between official data and non-official qualitative data but that both were necessary in order to obtain a complete picture of the situation of indigenous peoples. Ms. Sims noted that United Nations agencies needed to work with officially reported data. Lee Sweptson (International Labour Organization (ILO)) noted that there were creative ways of analysing unofficial data to create an accurate picture of issues that might not be officially recognized. Wayne Lord requested that States pay close attention to the requests of the Forum for accurate data and information.

3. Marcos Mattias Alonzo recommended that the Forum draw on the wealth of good work done by many countries, which already provided excellent statistics on indigenous peoples. Those good practices could be collated and provided as

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examples for other countries to consider. Also, Member States with good practices could perhaps share those in a workshop with other Member States. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund spoke of good work done in this area in Bolivia and how it was used to provide better education and health services to local communities. Zinaida Stogalschikova noted the effective use of data that provided disaggregated data on ethnicity. Such data could be sent to the secretariat for analysis.

4. Otilia Lux de Coti discussed advances made in the census in Guatemala, which was providing a better picture of the indigenous peoples. She also noted that linguistic maps were helpful. The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank noted the convening of two expert meetings to ensure that statistics of indigenous peoples were collected through country censuses in Latin America.

Donations to the voluntary fund

5. The Vice-President of the World Bank informed the Forum of his intention to take to the Board of the Bank a submission to establish a fund with three targets:

(a) Dedicated small grants;

(b) Financial contribution to the Forum;

(c) Capacity-building for indigenous peoples in the Andean Community (as a pilot project).

6. The Vice-President of the World Bank was thanked by the Chairperson and Pashuram Tamang, Yuji Iwasawa and Mililani Trask for the Bank's support of indigenous initiatives.

7. The representative of Denmark recognized the good work of the newly established Forum secretariat and the excellent documentation that had been prepared for the Forum in such a short time. The Danish Government would donate one million Danish kroner to the Forum, without conditions, to advance the good work of the Forum, and called on other member States to consider supporting this worthy cause.

Methods of work: Forum members

8. Forum members raised a number of issues that had interfered with the performance of their duties as United Nations experts, including but not limited to access to United Nations meetings, visa problems for Forum members and indigenous delegates, especially concerning access to the United States of America, the need for a regular budget for the Forum and the lack of indigenous policies within many United Nations bodies. Mililani Trask noted the importance of incorporating the outcomes of world conferences (especially the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development) into the work of the Forum. Ms. Nicolaisen inquired about a systematic approach by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) concerning its work with traditional knowledge and whether ethical considerations as well as legal obligations were taken into account in its work.

Methods of work: member States

9. The representative of Denmark stated that Denmark believed that there was no need for the Forum to appoint special advisers, but that it should tap into expertise already existing in the United Nations system, and recommended the adoption of a short-term and long-term programme of work to advance the mandated areas.

10. The representative of Mexico discussed the value of the opportunities for dialogue at the Forum, and encouraged the Chairperson and the Forum secretariat to promote more dialogue as a most useful strategy to advance the work of the Forum. The representative of Japan recalled the review of United Nations mechanisms, and suggested that after the review the resources previously used for other mechanisms, such as the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, could be redeployed to the Forum.

Methods of work: inter-agency support group perspectives (United Nations system)

11. Lee Swepston (ILO), on behalf of the Group raised the following issues in a bid to develop clear, collaborative, working guidelines within the United Nations system and between the system, the Forum and its secretariat:

(a) How to ensure that there was a two-way relationship between the Forum and the other parts of the United Nations system, with information and expertise flowing both towards the Forum and away from it;

(b) How to ensure that the Forum had a clear understanding of the place (mandates and resources) of indigenous concerns within each of the agencies/programmes, and a discussion of how the Forum could best support and encourage that work;

(c) How to ensure that budgetary allocations to indigenous issues within the United Nations system were not simply displaced from one agency/programme to another but in fact increased, and the role of the Member States in allocating human and financial resources to work on indigenous issues throughout the system;

(d) The extent to which the secretariat of the Forum would be operational and how to avoid duplication of work for which expertise already existed elsewhere. A related issue: how to request that studies and other materials for the Forum be prepared by the organizations of the United Nations system, when appropriate;

(e) How best to ensure that different parts of the United Nations system were consulted to ensure that recommendations to them were framed in the most productive way;

(f) How to avoid parallel processes and work across the system;

(g) Need to rotate Forum meetings between New York and Geneva, and perhaps to other locations.

12. WIPO discussed ways of involving Forum members in its work. Wend Wendland provided an overview of the work of WIPO regarding traditional knowledge and future meetings planned. A written report was provided for members.

Methods of work: indigenous peoples organizations

13. The Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network suggested establishing mechanisms to capture the rich debate of the Forum, including summary records. He noted that adequate coordination was impossible for such a small secretariat. He suggested that indigenous issues be integrated into the United Nations system (mainstreaming). He further noted that if the work of the Forum failed to be reflected at the national level then it had failed in its work. The Artic Region Council recommended that the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council be devoted to indigenous issues.

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Agenda item 4 (a)
Mandated areas: economic and social development

Chairperson's summary of discussion

Economic and social development

Member States

1. The representative of the observer Government of Canada noted that Canada had made a number of efforts to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in development. In particular, indigenous peoples participated on environmental assessment and regulatory boards and land claim settlement agreements, which provided for land, financial resources and agreed access to natural resources and various forms of self-government. He drew attention to such initiatives as the Artic Council and the development of a regional partnering approach to increase the participation of indigenous peoples in development and initiatives for indigenous peoples to become employed in the industries active in the north of Canada. A number of Governments discussed various mechanisms, such as the Department of Maori Affairs, which had the responsibility for elaborating government objectives for Maori development and coordinating Maori communities and other government departments.

United Nations system

2 The representative of the World Summit on Information Society addressed the Forum and briefed the Forum on the Summit, to be held in Geneva in September 2004. The Summit would provide a unique opportunity to discuss at a high level worldwide access to modern technologies. There were two forms of participation in the Summit, through written reports (indigenous peoples and modern technologies) or by physically participating through running a workshop at the Summit.

3. The Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat briefed the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the recently completed work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. She noted the participation of many stakeholders, including indigenous peoples. Economic development, social development and protection of the environment were regarded

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as the three pillars of sustainable development. Renewable resources were vital to indigenous peoples. She emphasized the importance of protecting indigenous knowledge and the use of traditional indigenous environmental knowledge in environmental management.

Indigenous peoples organizations

4. Many indigenous peoples representatives called for the concept of development to be reconsidered and reconstructed from an indigenous perspective. Many indigenous representatives noted that, for too long, indigenous peoples had been the victims rather than the beneficiaries of development. Some noted that the Eurocentric approach to development, as historically imposed on indigenous peoples, equated development with achieving the living standards of western civilization. Some indigenous representatives also noted that development, to indigenous peoples, might include developing and practising their spirituality, which required access to sacred sites. Some representatives noted that sustainable development had been promoted by indigenous peoples for millennia and indigenous peoples had (intergenerational) cultural obligations to ensure the sustainable use of land, waters and natural resources. Many indigenous representatives noted the incidence of human rights violations associated with development and that development itself was a human right (see article 1 of the Declaration on the Right to Development).

5. A number of indigenous representatives noted that the degree to which indigenous peoples enjoyed participation in democracy and society was directly linked with their participation in development. Many representatives noted that their access to the right of self-determination, self-development and the right to lands and territories (including waters) had a direct effect of whether they were able to participate in and enjoy the outcomes of development. Some indigenous representatives stressed the importance of peace as a necessary foundation for development. They further expressed concern about the increasing militarization of indigenous territories, which included military bases, practice ranges and dumping of toxic materials.

6. Some indigenous peoples raised the issue of the impact of private sector developments and mega-projects, such as large-scale mining and large dams. Many fears were raised about the fragility of ecosystems and displaced communities caused by such work. Many indigenous representatives noted the link between globalization, development and the deteriorating circumstances of many of the world's indigenous peoples. Many representatives noted that the failure to fully implement or honour national legislation and international treaties by some States had had a severe impact on the ability for indigenous peoples to enjoy their right to development.

7. The Aboriginal Social Justice Commissioner of Australia applauded the good work of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in particular the UNDP *2000 Human Development Report* (on human rights and development), and recommended that the specific situation of indigenous peoples be considered in future reports. He specifically recommended that the Forum acknowledge the excellent work on poverty eradication and the integration of human rights and development standards carried out by UNDP to date, and requested UNDP to continue that work by specifically applying it to the situation of indigenous peoples

as peoples with a distinct status, a people who suffered extreme marginalization and whose very survival remained under threat.

Forum members

8. Mr. Jacanamijoy was nominated as the member responsible for collecting recommendations on development. Ms. Lux de Coti noted that the United Nations system should devise policies with indigenous peoples and that indigenous peoples should also participate in Government policy development. She noted that it would be useful for the Secretariat to create a database of government policies and programmes as a resource for Forum members. Many members believed that the Forum should monitor the implementation of policies in the United Nations system. Many members recognized the outstanding issue of free prior and informed consent and suggested convening a workshop to take that issue forward.

9. Mr. Kouevi noted that self-determination and development were intimately linked. He noted the importance of food security and the importance of land to development. He recommended the establishment of a new international decade for the world's indigenous peoples. Ms. Nicolaisen noted the importance of briefings on world summits and how that could assist the Forum to plan for its participation. Ms. Strogalschikova noted the importance of access to forests for traditional forest dwellers. Ms. Trask Mililani requested that the Forum seek the involvement of the World Trade Agency in the Inter-Agency Support Group. Ms. Njuma noted that underdevelopment was linked to lack of information and access to information technology. Mr. Littlechild reiterated the importance of free prior and informed consent and support for a workshop to take that issue forward. He noted also the importance of sport for development and called for support of the 2003 Magglingen Declaration.

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Agenda item 4 (b)
Mandated areas: environment

Chairperson's summary of discussion

Environment

Member States

1. The representative of Mexico discussed that country's national strategy for development and sustainable development, which was based on the preservation of environment on land and seas. The representative stated that the rational use of natural resources would improve the condition of indigenous communities. The representative of Denmark spoke about a sustainable development workshop for indigenous peoples that Denmark hosted and that country's desire to build partnerships with the Forum (Mr. Jacanamijoy participated). Denmark would continue to build on that work and report to the Forum as it strived for partnerships with indigenous peoples.

United Nations system

2. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recognized the unique contributions that indigenous peoples made to international dialogues on environment. UNEP discussed the importance of integrating diversity of nature and global environmental ethics and of promoting greater understanding of the links between cultural diversity and biological diversity, noting that rich diversity was a collective strength, that sustainable development could be strengthened by recognizing the link between biological diversity, and the emergence of a new respect for indigenous peoples and their ecological knowledge that had been all but lost by contemporary societies. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme also discussed its various sustainable development projects and the involvement and participation of indigenous peoples.

3. The representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development discussed its work with the rural poor, and noted that poverty was linked to marginalized peoples who often lived in remote areas and suffered a lack of basic

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infrastructure and other basic services. Indigenous peoples were increasingly being displaced from their lands, but ending that marginalization would lead to stability and sustainable development. A solution lay in strengthening indigenous peoples' right to land while recognizing indigenous knowledge and compensating indigenous peoples for the environmental services they provided to local, regional and global economies.

Indigenous peoples organizations

4. Many indigenous peoples organizations participated in the discussion. A comprehensive set of environment-related issues was presented to the Forum, which included but was not limited to free, prior and informed consent; access to and right to manage traditional lands; access to natural resources (safe and unpolluted); the need for an international instrument to settle environmental disputes; access to the International Criminal Court for disputes between indigenous peoples and nations; the need for protection of sacred places and sites acknowledged as the sacred birthright of indigenous children; forced relocations of indigenous peoples without compensation or option to return; the need for full participation in development; pollution of air, water and territories and effects on animal and plant life; sustainable development that maintained cultural identity; sustainable use of natural resources; participatory sustainable development and need for indigenous peoples to participate in democratic governance processes; recognition of indigenous collective rights, including self-determination and the rights embodied in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; an end to the militarization of indigenous lands, especially indigenous territories which occupied border lands; the role of indigenous peoples in maintaining biodiversity, seed banks and food diversity; and concern over genetically altered seeds that could contaminate natural seeds and lead to decreasing food diversity and cause food dependence on seeds from multinationals.

5. Many indigenous representatives noted that poverty had a negative impact on the environment, and some indigenous representatives from Latin America drew the Forum's attention to environmental pollution caused by the eradication of coco leaf through defoliants. Further concerns were raised regarding food insecurity caused or exacerbated by pollution, conflict and environmental degradation. There were also solutions offered and examples of good practices, including indigenous reclamation of land projects where communities of committed indigenous peoples were reclaiming the desert and restoring it to the original condition. Other indigenous peoples emphasized the need for aboriginal participation in forest management, noting that 80 per cent of indigenous Canadians lived in areas of forests. It was noted that indigenous peoples had an economic interest in their forests, and all six mandated areas concerned forests, making it a cross-cutting issue. Further recommendations were made requesting that Governments, corporations and intergovernmental organizations adhere to international human rights standards, and that all development on indigenous lands require indigenous peoples' free, prior and informed consent. It was emphasized that consultation be carried out by culturally appropriate means in all decision-making activities and all matters that might affect the indigenous peoples concerned.

6. Many indigenous groups raised concerns about environmental racism and the pollution of indigenous territories and the transport and storage of toxic and radioactive materials. The indigenous peoples of the Niger River Delta condemned the environmental vandalism of Texaco. Many indigenous representatives drew

attention to the loss of biodiversity caused by mono-plantations, such as cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, tea and coffee, and noted that all too often those projects were funded by international banks. Many indigenous representatives called for a balance of social development within the parameters of sustainable development to ensure cultural continuity, and noted the need to raise awareness among children and youth about environment. Indigenous representatives stated it was important to give young people the chance to help shape the future as the bearers of cultural traditions.

7. Many indigenous representatives expressed grave concern over bio-piracy and genetic engineering, and called for the protection of genetic resources and a moratorium on bio-prospecting. The protection of traditional knowledge and indigenous intellectual property was a high priority for indigenous peoples and could be coupled with free, informed and prior consent.

8. A number of indigenous groups from Australia noted the continuing erosion of native title on the Pintinjara and other Aboriginal native title lands, and also noted the Hindmarsh Island case and the government discreditation of aboriginal evidence in the Royal Commission. Further concerns were raised regarding radioactive waste dumping on indigenous lands and the bias of the legal system, and it was noted that the interpretation of aboriginal cultural evidence through the western legal systems continued to deny a just outcome for native titles for indigenous Australians. The Native Title Act in Australia had been amended in such a way as to be a barrier to indigenous peoples of Australia to enjoying their human rights to land and culture.

9. Recommendations made by the indigenous representatives included:

(a) Indigenous representatives called for the full implementation of the outcomes of recent major United Nations summits and conferences to address many of the issues raised during the session;

(b) The Forum should request the Commission on Sustainable Development in conjunction with secretariats of environmental bodies, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to compile a report on the implementation of chapter 26 of Agenda 21 and other relevant chapters, such as chapter 36 and 15. The report should focus specifically on how those environmental secretariats/agencies were implementing the chapters for indigenous peoples in their programmes of work under their conventions. The report should be submitted in writing to the Forum at its third session;

(c) A world conference should be convened on indigenous peoples and sustainable development;

(d) The development of an ethical code to address bio-prospecting;

(e) A recommendation for a survey of indigenous peoples and environmental health;

Forum members

10. Mr. Littlechild thanked all the speakers for their excellent interventions and recommendations on agenda item 4 (b). He noted that everybody shared the environment. He also supported all calls for the protection and respect for Mother Earth. He reminded the delegates that in the International Year of Freshwater (2003), the Treaty Six territory had retained its water rights and wished those legal

obligations to be respected and honoured according to their original spirit and intent. He emphasized that indigenous nations used water for spiritual purposes, which must be respected. Mr. Tamang acknowledged the contributions of all speakers, especially those who had submitted written statements and recommendations.

11. Mr. Kouevi noted the adverse effects of mining and corresponding recommendations to carry out studies and produce reports with data. He noted that some speakers spoke of establishing legal processes to protect and redress environmental discrimination. He recalled the need to take into account the knowledge and traditional laws of indigenous peoples. Ms. Qin noted that the unlimited expansion of societies have greatly reduced rainforests and negatively impacted on the lands of indigenous peoples, reducing their ability to access their territories and live in sustainable ways. Ida Nicolaisen noted the severe problems faced in west and northern Africa. She noted that indigenous peoples needed to both exploit and preserve their environments and that that was difficult when ownership was not respected. Ms. Lux de Coti noted the rape of the forests and environment, and recalled recommendations to States to preserve forests and rivers and avoid privatizing those resources, thus guaranteeing citizenship rights of indigenous peoples. She encouraged United Nations bodies to promote the adoption of sustainable development models. She called for the adoption of the Kimberley Declaration. Mr. Turpo Choquehuanca referred to the Andes situation and asked Governments to enact very strict laws to protect the environment. Ms. Njuma supported the recommendations made by Ms. Lux de Coti, noting the progress of desertification in her area. Ms. Njuma stated that Pygmy knowledge was ignored by timber harvesters and that the desert was advancing. Mr. Jacanamijoy discussed the various biodiversity conventions and the importance of their full implementation, and recommended convening a high-level panel to deal with environmental and biodiversity issues.

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Mandated areas: health

Chairperson's summary

Health

Member States

1. The representative of Canada noted the importance of national plans of action to address indigenous health issues and reported that a federal strategy for child development had been put in place to address the disproportionate numbers of youth suicides. Canada had recently held a youth round-table discussion to consider ways of empowering indigenous youth. Canada had also increased the amount of resources allocated to aboriginal health programmes to address the disadvantages faced by indigenous peoples of Canada.

2. The representative of Guyana reported that in July 2003, Guyana would revise the Amerindian Act of 1976. The amendments would deal with land rights, the powers of the Minister of Amerindian Affairs, the powers of captains and the establishment of "village councils". Guyana had created a Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and there were 15 Amerindians in the 65-member national parliament. Through such strategies as the annual celebration of Amerindian Heritage Month, Guyana was working towards the further integration of Amerindians into mainstream Guyanese society with increasing numbers of indigenous professionals in medicine, teaching and journalism, among other fields. He further noted that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had just completed an immunization programme in Guyana and the Government had been incrementally establishing community health care centres and health huts to offer residents in dispersed hinterland communities immunization, maternal and child care health services and education, as well as identification and treatment of malaria, and also was training residents of those communities to work in the centres. Furthermore, Guyana had sent two Amerindian delegates to the Third World Water Forum and the Children's Water and Sanitation Conference. To show their commitment to addressing those issues, the Government was assisting with the digging of wells and providing sanitation facilities in indigenous communities.

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3. A number of countries called for another International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The representative of Ecuador called upon the Forum to utilize all relevant United Nations mechanisms to protect the rights of indigenous women and children.

United Nations system

4. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) spoke of the growing awareness of indigenous health needs and institutional obstacles including resourcing which inhibited progress in that area. The WHO representative had also been responsible for the collation of the United Nations paper on data collection. The representative went on to discuss the importance of good disaggregated data and the obstacles to data collection. The Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs provided a briefing to the members on statistics and data collection. He voiced support for the recommendation to establish a workshop on statistics and he emphasized the need to collect specialized statistics on indigenous peoples at the national level. He noted that the major source of statistics was population and housing statistics from States, which were usually collected every 10 years. Many States did not ask questions related to identifying indigenous peoples and where they did, often the results were not made public. Of 200 countries which had conducted national censuses and made them available to the United Nations, only 43 had provided specific information relating to indigenous peoples. Australia had recorded a dramatic increase in the number of people identified as indigenous and suggested that it was a result of the reworking of the definition. Latin America had great difficulty in determining who was indigenous, and many States did not inquire. Canada noted that it had developed a Register of Indians (under the Indian Act) which collected a profile of each indigenous person. The United States of America used a process of self-identification. New Zealand had a draft document on the Maori statistical framework that was currently out for consultation with the Maori people, opening a new era of statistical collection that might properly represent their reality.

Indigenous peoples' organizations

5. Many indigenous peoples' organizations made recommendations concerning health, which included but were not limited to the following:

1. The Special Rapporteur on indigenous issues should visit Mexico and examine the health of indigenous peoples in Mexico.

2. The Government of Mexico should carry out a health survey on indigenous peoples at risk.

3. The Forum should request relevant agencies to include and promote traditional health practices among their basic health services.

4. In view of the increasing violence (including domestic violence) in all aspects of indigenous life, indigenous peoples should request a study on the causes of violence and the ways of addressing it.

5. States should consider establishing indigenous controlled health programmes staffed with trained indigenous professionals.

6. States should consider promoting indigenous health and health care while protecting traditional knowledge from exploitation.

7. Indigenous peoples should be provided with access to mainstream health while partnerships are created and promoted with traditional health care.

8. The health care of States should be based on traditional medicine.

9. The United Nations system should ensure that in its studies, it does not use such inappropriate terms such as "ethnic minorities" when referring to indigenous peoples.

10. The Forum should work more closely with WHO to strengthen health-care systems internationally for indigenous peoples.

11. The Forum should ensure that data on indigenous peoples is specific.

12. The Forum should investigate preventive mechanisms to halt the damage caused by the dumping of radioactive wastes, nuclear and military testing, and the dumping of toxic wastes on indigenous territories and its effect on the health of indigenous peoples.

13. The Forum should continue to strive for a better flow of communication between WHO, the Forum and indigenous peoples' organizations at the regional level.

14. The Forum should encourage States to develop and implement national strategies to train indigenous health-care providers and to invest in health-care infrastructure for indigenous peoples.

15. The Forum should conduct a workshop on "domestic violence, indigenous youth suicide, urban indigenous youth — inter-generational effects".

16. The Forum should conduct a workshop on all forms of substance abuse, including tobacco and alcohol.

17. The Forum should conduct a workshop on single-parent families and their impact on indigenous peoples' health, diet and obesity.

18. The Forum should examine the effects, including the inter-generational effects, on indigenous peoples forced to attend state or church boarding schools, or removed and institutionalized for other reasons, where they may have been vulnerable to or subject to sexual violence, rape and murder.

19. The Forum should promote indigenous health care, which also requires protection against patents on indigenous medicinal plants.

20. The Forum, through the agencies of the United Nations system, should encourage health-care policies based on the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples.

21. The Forum should recommend that indigenous peoples achieve effective participation in the planning, implementation and monitoring of national and international health policies and programmes.

22. International institutions and States should participate in the construction of plural models of public health care which validate indigenous traditional knowledge and healers, innovations and practices.

Forum members

6. Ms. Trask drew the attention of the Forum to the recommendations of the first session which had not yet been implemented and called upon WHO, the Pan American Health Organization and all United Nations bodies and agencies involved in programmes relating to health to incorporate indigenous healers and cultural perspectives on health and illness into their policies, guidelines and programmes, and to undertake regional consultations with indigenous peoples on those issues, in order to mainstream indigenous health issues into the United Nations system. She also requested the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to undertake a study on the relationship between food security, subsistence agricultural practices and indigenous health and illness. The technical seminars referred to in recommendations of the first session were downgraded to workshops, which would include an indigenous health workshop with the goal of designing a system-wide strategy to address the health needs of indigenous peoples and the terms of reference for a study on the health needs of indigenous peoples, with particular emphasis on indigenous children and women, including infant mortality, reproductive rights, sterilization, domestic abuse and addiction and the collection of data relating to these issues. Ms. Trask furthermore requested that the Global Alliance for Vaccination Initiatives sponsor a workshop and that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) co-sponsor a workshop on expanding global programmes for the immunization and vaccination of indigenous women and children and assessing the need for safety protocols relating thereto.

7. Ms. Trask also compiled a number of new recommendations on indigenous health, including the following:

(a) UNICEF, the lead United Nations organization on children, should adopt a policy relating to indigenous children and designate an agency focal point on indigenous children. The Forum urged UNICEF to include questions on ethnicity, cultural and tribal affiliation and language in its Demographic and Health Survey and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey to obtain disaggregated data on the goals set forth at the World Summit for Children and the health needs of indigenous children;

(b) WHO, in implementing the Global Strategy on the Health of Marginalized Ethnic Populations, should gather data and extend programme services to indigenous peoples who self-identify as indigenous based on criteria relating to ethnicity, cultural or tribal affiliation and language;

(c) WHO should engage in a global consultation with indigenous peoples and others on its participatory research guidelines and seek the advice of the Forum on the guidelines;

(d) UNICEF, UNDP, United Nations Development Fund for Women, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria should gather and disaggregate data on indigenous infants, children and mothers based on criteria relating to ethnicity, cultural and tribal affiliation, and language.

8. Various recommendations emerged from discussions concerning environmental health, covering such issues as environment/health/persistent organic pollutants. Members expressed a great deal of concern regarding the issue of HIV/AIDS and indigenous populations and requested that the Inter-Agency Support Group request the Global Fund and UNAIDS to be part of the Group and to present a report on the impact of their programmes and activities on indigenous peoples and communities to the Forum at its third session in 2004 with a specific focus on preventive programmes and activities affecting children and infants. The Global Fund should be requested to review its funding strategy with a view to including access of indigenous NGOs and health-care providers to community-based, culturally appropriate HIV/AIDS programmes.

9. Other special issues raised included a request that the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences pay special attention to the impact of violence against indigenous women, including war-related violence and domestic violence. The Forum also recommended that the Special Rapporteur on the right to health pay special attention in his work to the right to health as contained in treaties between indigenous peoples and States.

10. In response to the special theme of the current session, Forum members recommended that the United Nations agencies supporting and promoting the Healthy Environments for Children Alliance, namely WHO, UNICEF, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, include a particular focus on indigenous children and youth, and urged States to undertake and promote the expansion of their national health systems in order to provide holistic health programmes for indigenous children which incorporate preventive medical practices and family and community participation. States were urged, in their efforts to address the issues of malnutrition of indigenous children victimized by poverty, to adopt special measures to ensure and protect the cultivation of traditional food crops and food diversity.

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Mandated areas: human rights

Chairperson's summary of discussion

Member States

1. The representative of Finland emphasized that the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples is one of the priorities of Finnish human rights policy. She further noted that Finnish international policies are guided by experiences at home and that, at the same time, national policies and legislation are influenced by international developments. She noted that Finland supports the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and encourages its adoption as originally drafted. She further noted the interconnection between the broad mandate of the Forum and world conferences, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the World Conference against Racism, and encouraged cross-fertilization of ideas. The representative of Norway called for the adoption of the draft Declaration before the end of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2004), which would contribute substantively to the enjoyment of human rights for indigenous peoples. Nigeria voiced its support for the Forum, but clarified that Nigeria was striving to make democratic governance and human rights a reality for all Nigerians.

United Nations agencies

2. Mr. Miguel Alfonso Martinez, Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, discussed how the Permanent Forum and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations can best work together to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples. He drew attention to the report of the Working Group of 2002, which suggested future work and possible collaboration with other mechanisms.

3. Mrs. Erica-Irene A. Daes presented her ongoing study concerning the sovereignty of indigenous peoples over their natural resources. She noted that the United Nations has adopted over 80 resolutions concerning sovereignty over natural resources and stated her belief that the resolutions apply to indigenous peoples,

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since they are largely colonized peoples. She noted that resources were not freely and/or fairly given up.

4. Mr. Julian Burger, of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) discussed the OHCHR response to the recommendations of the report of the first session. Mr. Burger noted four points regarding the future work of the Forum:

(a) Policy development;

(b) The need to avoid duplication and to add value to the work of the Forum;

(c) Assistance with prioritization of indigenous issues;

(d) Long-term financing.

5. He further noted that currently there was no capacity within OHCHR to absorb new tasks and that Member States needed to consider the financial implications of recommendations arising from the Forum.

Indigenous peoples organizations

6. Many indigenous representatives stressed that human rights abuses impacted disproportionately on indigenous children and youth and indigenous women. It was further noted that violence and militarization of indigenous territories (lands and waters) was increasing and that this impacted severely on indigenous peoples. Some representatives asked that the unimplemented recommendations of the first report be repeated in the second report. The African Regional Indigenous Caucus noted with concern the deteriorating human rights situation of indigenous peoples in Africa caused by non-recognition of human rights, including rights to land and natural resources.

7. The representative of the International Coalition Against Racism discussed the outcomes of the World Conference against Racism and the issues of reparations and compensations during colonialism and slavery.

8. Some indigenous representatives drew attention to the worst forms of human rights atrocities visited upon indigenous peoples in various parts of Africa, including cannibalism, rape, torture and murder. He noted that the perpetrators were rarely punished and the victims seldom receive justice. A representative of the Pygmy peoples described the extreme poverty of her peoples and their disappearing environment.

9. Many indigenous representatives called for the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to be adopted unamended before the end of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

Permanent Forum members

10. Mr. Kouevi responded to the presentations by OHCHR and stressed the importance of human rights. He noted grave human rights violations that have been brought to the attention of the members, in particular violations concerning the Kuna peoples of Panama and the Pygmy situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mr. Littlechild thanked Mr. Martinez and Ms. Daes for their many years of work for indigenous peoples and welcomed the approval of two seminars on treaties and the administration of justice. Mr. Matias Alonso emphasized the need for the

three mechanisms of the Permanent Forum, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the Special Rapporteur to work together, and also the need for adequate funding to support these bodies. He also raised the issue of how to work together to respond quickly to gross human rights violations. Mr. Choquehuanca expressed his support for human rights. Ms. Qin voiced her support for the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and noted the increasing international attention that this body had brought to indigenous human rights. She noted that the rights of indigenous peoples are still being developed, and further noted that indigenous rights needed to be balanced with other rights, including civil and political rights. Ms. Trask called for Mrs. Daes' research to be furthered and noted that her studies should be officially brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council for action, including her study on cultural heritage. Ms. Trask noted the inactivity in the progress on the adoption of the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Ms. Strogalschikova noted that the Declaration set out the standard for indigenous rights.

11. Mr. Kouevi summarized the human rights agenda item calling for indigenous peoples rights to be guaranteed under all the United Nations human rights mechanisms, and also noted the need for complementarity to be promoted through coordination by the Secretariat (for the Permanent Forum) of the other indigenous mechanisms, including the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and the two special rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of fundamental freedoms and human rights of indigenous people and the newly appointed Special Rapporteur on the permanent sovereignty of indigenous peoples over their natural resources. He further noted the importance of self-determination for indigenous peoples and especially concerning indigenous children and youth. He recalled two resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights (resolutions 2002/17 and 2003/55) and voiced support for the maintenance of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, whose mandate remains different but complimentary to the mandate of the Permanent Forum. He noted calls by indigenous representatives for respect for treaties and other arrangements between States and indigenous peoples and for a world conference to discuss these issues (which also includes the issue of reparations and compensation for slavery and colonization). He recalled indigenous support for a second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and also for a conference with the World Bank to establish a mechanism for dialogue with indigenous peoples on World Bank policies and programmes. Mr. Iwasawa welcomed the paper submitted by OHCHR (E/C.19/2003/CRP.5), which provided information on human rights treaty mechanisms, and called for a comprehensive study of that issue. He also applauded the involvement of the Council of Europe and noted its information paper, calling for engagement of other regional bodies with the Permanent Forum. Ms. Lux de Coti requested that States give due attention to the principle of self-determination and the protection of cultural heritage and the rights of "displaced persons".

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Mandated areas: culture

Chairperson's summary

Culture

Member States

1. The Ambassador of Guatemala called for an end to the marginalization of indigenous peoples, and for increased support (including financial) to the Forum and its secretariat to fulfil its broad mandate. He drew attention to the advances made in Guatemala to protect indigenous languages and sacred places and to combat racism against indigenous peoples. He pointed to the results of the peace agreement and the reform of public policy to address the many years of marginalization faced by the indigenous peoples of Guatemala. He emphasized that Guatemala supported both the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples as adopted by the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.[1] The representative of the European Parliament addressed the Forum to underline the importance of cultural diversity and language diversity to the European Union. He also acknowledged that "old Europe" was largely responsible for the plundering of indigenous peoples and their territories during the colonization period and apologized for that historical fact, emphasizing that the European Parliament had allocated 21 million euros in the past three years to fund indigenous initiatives and would continue to support the Forum and indigenous peoples. The policy for indigenous peoples would be a priority under the new Italian presidency of the Parliament. He also noted that the Council and the Parliament wanted to financially support the work of the Forum.

2. The representative of Canada noted that his country's priorities were increased participation of indigenous peoples and the recognition and promotion of cultural diversity. He indicated that a national indigenous language centre would be established in 2004. Canada funded "friendship centres" to assist urban indigenous youth with their cultural connections and growth. Canada also participated in and supported the North American Indigenous Games. The representative also pointed to Canada's support for the work of the Forum. The representative of New Zealand

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emphasized that the revitalization of culture had provided culturally appropriate development for the Maori people. He called for appropriate protection of traditional knowledge and fauna and flora and noted that New Zealand is working towards that goal. He noted furthermore that the repatriation of human remains from European institutions was an important issue and he called on such institutions to return human remains to the Maori people.

United Nations system

3. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) described the current relevant work of the organization concerning indigenous peoples. He noted that UNESCO covered various indigenous issues under different departments, including Cultural dialogue, Intangible cultural heritage and Education. He drew attention to the ongoing work of UNESCO in promoting intercultural dialogue, the beginnings of a process to lead to a declaration on intangible cultural heritage and the work being carried out on endangered languages. He also noted in response to questions that language was included under intangible cultural heritage and that the restoration of cultural property was included in programmes within the Heritage section and that UNESCO was developing a relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme to examine the link between cultural diversity and biological diversity.

Indigenous peoples' organizations

4. Some indigenous peoples raised issues concerning water (and the cultural use of water) and called for special support for communities in drought and action against the privatization of water. An indigenous representative from Africa called for democratic policies in Africa that would promote cultural rights and allow indigenous peoples to have control over their resources. Many groups talked about the exclusion of indigenous languages, histories, learning styles and teaching strategies from mainstream education systems and the direct effects on school retention and attainment rates. Recommendations were made to UNESCO to hold a workshop on indigenous languages and to ensure the protection of sacred sites and the revitalization of indigenous cultures. Many indigenous representatives called for the full participation of indigenous peoples in all matters affecting them at the United Nations. The Indigenous Youth Caucus called for the revitalization of indigenous languages. Many representatives called for the protection of traditional knowledge and indigenous intellectual property and the recognition of those collective rights by the United Nations and Member States. Other representatives drew attention to the loss of territories, plants and animals that were vital for the protection and continuation of indigenous cultures and called for the interconnectedness of all those things to be recognized, respected and protected. Many representatives agreed that the issues of land and waters, as well as natural resources that were essential for the practising of indigenous cultures, remained unresolved with nation States and within the United Nations. A representative of the World Festival of Traditional Games and Sports discussed that international gathering, which would be held in Montreal, Canada, in 2004.

Forum members

5. Ms. Njuma emphasized the importance of the preservation of ancestral (traditional) knowledge. Mr. Littlechild applauded the inclusion and promotion of

sport within health, culture and education. Mr. Tamang welcomes the UNESCO initiatives to promote intercultural dialogue with indigenous peoples, to promote sacred site protection and the work towards the protection of intangible cultural heritage. He requested advice on ways the Forum and UNESCO could best work together to promote the mandated areas of the Forum. Mr. Kouevi noted the need for UNESCO and the United Nations Children's Fund to work together and also to work in a coordinated fashion with the Permanent Forum. Mr. Choquehuanca called for the return of stolen artefacts and human remains from museums and an end to the illegal trade in those sacred objects. Ms. Lux de Coti noted the importance of the full participation of indigenous peoples in all the relevant work of the specialized agencies, particularly the work of UNESCO concerning languages and intangible cultural heritage. Ms. Qin encouraged the promotion of access to appropriate education and the use of bilingual strategies. Ms. Nicolaisen called for an end to the trafficking of artefacts and sacred objects and noted that sacred sites were the focal points for the spiritual life of indigenous peoples. The work of UNESCO in protecting sacred sites was noted.

Notes

[1] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/2/Add.1.

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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Agenda item 4 (f)
Mandated areas: education

Chairperson's summary

Education

Member States

1. The representative of Bangladesh noted that tribal peoples and ethnic minorities were protected under the Constitution from racism and discrimination and that special measures were in place to ensure access to education for underrepresented groups. The representative of Myanmar noted that the Government had implemented an indigenous education programme and strategies for the preservation of indigenous cultures, which were regarded as part of the national cultural heritage. The representative of Brazil discussed the Brazilian indigenous education strategy, which had improved the numbers of qualified indigenous teachers and increased their level of qualification. He also noted that priority was given to the production of indigenous educational resources to promote indigenous education. Brazil also called for a fresh approach to the negotiations over the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples to ensure its adoption before the end of the decade. The Government of Sweden reported on its practices with Sami education and the increasing inclusion of Sami people in Swedish society. Nepal expressed support for the work of the Forum and noted that its Constitution guaranteed the rights of ethnic minorities and special measures for vulnerable groups. The Government of Nepal expressed its full commitment to the protection of human rights.

United Nations system

2. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) discussed the work of the organization in the compilation of best practices in indigenous education. A case study was presented on best practices in Guatemala. The UNESCO representative noted that there were currently no education structures designed for indigenous languages and yet instruction in the mother tongue was vital for the transmission of indigenous knowledge and culture.

03-26979 (E) 230503

UNESCO promoted bilingual education as a good practice. The representative also noted that the Dakar Action Plan applied equally to indigenous peoples and was based on the principles of tolerance, mutual respect and quality education for boys and girls. The Department of Public Information of the United Nations discussed its web-based Cyber School Bus programme (available at www.cyberschoolbus.un.org) and its desire to include indigenous education materials. The Department specifically requested primary source materials to increase the visibility of indigenous youth.

Indigenous peoples' organization

3. Many indigenous representatives discussed common education issues, including poor retention, attainment and graduation rates throughout the compulsory and non-compulsory years of schooling. Many indigenous representatives described overt and systemic racism and marginalization as root causes of the lack of educational attainment of indigenous young people. Some representatives emphasized the link between access to and success in early childhood education and ongoing success in later schooling and life.

4. Many indigenous representatives suggested solutions, which included but were not limited to:

Participation

(a) Establishing effective arrangements for the participation of indigenous parents and community members in decisions regarding the planning, delivery and evaluation of education services for their children, young people and other community members;

(b) Increasing the number of indigenous people employed as educational administrators, teachers, coaches, curriculum advisers, teacher's assistants, home-school liaison officers and other education workers, including community people engaged in teaching indigenous culture, history and contemporary society, and indigenous languages;

(c) Providing education and training services to develop the skills of indigenous people to participate in educational decision-making;

(d) Developing arrangements for the provision of independent advice from indigenous communities regarding educational decisions at all levels;

(e) Achieving the participation of indigenous children, young people and adults in education for a period similar to that for other students;

Access

(f) Ensuring that indigenous children, young people and adults have access to all levels of education (including adult education) on a basis comparable to that available to other citizens;

Attainment

(g) Enabling indigenous students to attain skills and graduation rates to the same standard as other students throughout the compulsory and non-compulsory schooling years;

Indigenous languages, proficiency in the lingua franca and numeracy

(h) Developing programmes to support the maintenance and continued use of indigenous languages;

(i) Enabling the attainment of proficiency in the lingua franca and numeracy competencies by all indigenous students including indigenous adults;

Capacity-building

(j) Providing community education services which will enable indigenous people to develop the skills to manage the development of their communities;

Appreciation, understanding and respect for indigenous cultures

(k) Enabling all students at all levels of education to have an appreciation, understanding and respect of traditional and contemporary indigenous histories, cultures and identities;

Anti-racism strategies

(l) Promoting anti-racism education, including strategies to empower young people to deal with racism in the compulsory schooling curriculum;

Self-determination

(m) Indigenous peoples should be resourced and supported to establish their own education systems, including schools, should they so choose. Also, traditional indigenous education and its structures should be respected and supported.

Forum members

5. Ms. Qin was appointed as the focal point for education. Ms. Lux de Coti urged UNESCO to hold seminars and workshops on indigenous languages and indigenous education. Mr. Choquehuanca discussed establishing indigenous universities as a strategy to improve education standards for indigenous peoples. Ms. Strogalschikova noted the success of the Siberian Academy, which was attended by 3,000 indigenous people, but noted that indigenous people were largely invisible in mainstream textbooks. Mr. Littlechild called for the inclusion and recognition of treaty rights to education and noted submissions calling for the recognition of an international indigenous university.

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Agenda item 3
Theme of the session: "Indigenous children and youth"

Additional draft recommendations on indigenous children and youth submitted by members of the Forum

Additional paragraphs submitted by Ida Nicolaisen

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends that both States and indigenous peoples' organizations include youth representatives in their delegations attending the annual session of the Forum.

2. The Forum recommends that in staffing the secretariat of the Forum, due consideration be given to qualified indigenous youth applicants.

Additional paragraphs submitted by Wilton Littlechild

1. The Forum recommends that the Committee on the Rights of the Child, at its special discussion day on the indigenous child, to be held on 19 September 2003, in addition to considering reports from States parties, pay special attention to issues related to safeguarding the integrity of indigenous families.

2. The Forum, deeply concerned about the harmful and widespread impact of armed conflict on indigenous children, recommends that the Committee on the Rights of the Child make recommendations on the situation of the human rights of indigenous children involved in armed conflict, taking into account the principles and norms contained in the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

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Agenda item 5
Methods of work of the Forum with the United Nations system

Draft recommendations submitted by the Rapporteur

Methods of work of the Forum with the United Nations system

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues notes that there is a need for capacity-building in national and local government as well indigenous communities in the areas within the Forum's mandate, and recommends that various parts of the United Nations system, including the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the secretariat of the Forum, cooperate to provide technical assistance in that regard at the request of Governments and indigenous communities.

2. The Forum expresses its satisfaction that the Inter-Agency Support Group has met since the first session of the Forum to organize its input to the second session, and expresses appreciation to the ILO and the World Bank for having convened the Group. The Forum requests the Group to extend its membership to other United Nations system entities so as to promote the largest possible participation of the system in the work programme of the Forum, and requests the secretariat of the Forum to provide substantive support to the rotating Chair of the Group. The Forum also expresses appreciation for the active participation of agency focal points in a constructive dialogue during its second session, and expresses the hope that focal points will continue to participate at its third session.

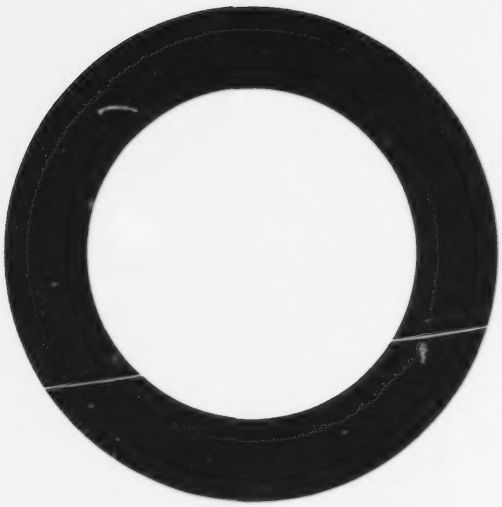
3. The Forum recognizes the efforts of the World Bank in the consultation process and the review of its policy on indigenous peoples. The members of the Forum request that the final draft policy be made available to them before its presentation to the Board of the World Bank. The members of the Forum express their great interest in reviewing the draft policy and making recommendations, as well as in meeting with the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank.

4. The Forum recommends that the World Bank continue dialogue and direct consultation with indigenous peoples, and that a permanent dialogue be held among indigenous peoples, the World Bank and the Forum.

03-36423 (E) 200503

5. The Forum recommends strengthening the mechanisms for collaboration with United Nations agencies and Governments, and monitoring compliance with and the implementation of its recommendations made to United Nations agencies and Governments.

6. The Forum requests that executive heads of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes that have not yet done so adopt policies on indigenous peoples and designate focal points for addressing indigenous issues relevant to each respective agency's mandate in order to facilitate the mainstreaming of indigenous issues within the United Nations system.



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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Agenda item 6
Future work of the Forum

Draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

"**Workshop on the collection of data concerning indigenous peoples**

"The Economic and Social Council

"(a) Authorizes the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to convene, as an initial step, a three-day workshop on the collection of data concerning indigenous peoples, with the participation of three members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; experts from United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including both statistics experts and focal points on indigenous issues; the secretariat of the Forum; experts from indigenous peoples organizations with expertise related to the collection of data concerning indigenous peoples; two academic experts in the field; and interested States;

"(b) Authorizes the provision of all necessary conference facilities for the workshop;

"(c) Decides that the workshop will produce a report, with recommendations for consideration by the Forum at its third session, in 2004."

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Agenda item 6
Future work of the Forum

Draft recommendation submitted by the Rapporteur

Data collection

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues takes account of the diversity of national experience with surveys, censuses and other data and information-collection systems as applied to indigenous peoples, and in view of the urgent need for disaggregated data on indigenous peoples within all of the mandated areas for developing and streamlining the policies and guidelines of the work of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and also in view of the complexities of producing coherent data, reiterates the recommendation made at its first session to organize a workshop on the subject, and recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the draft decision contained in document E/C.19/2003/L.5.

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Draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

"High-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council

"The Economic and Social Council, taking into account that in 2006 five years will have been completed since the first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and given the increasing importance of indigenous issues at the international level, decides to devote the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2006 to indigenous issues and to invite the Chairperson of the Forum to participate."

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Draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

"Participation of members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council

"The Economic and Social Council, taking into account the importance for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to be represented, by its Chairperson or designated members, at various meetings of relevance to its mandate throughout the year, decides to confirm such representation as one of the methods of work of the Forum, and further requests that all subsidiary bodies of the Council welcome the Forum and its members by issuing open invitations to Forum members to attend all relevant meetings, conferences and seminars."

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Draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

"Bureau of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

"The Economic and Social Council, having taken note that the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues considered it useful to designate six members for its Bureau at its first and second sessions, confirms that emerging practice as a method of work of the Forum."

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Draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

"Venue and dates for the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

"The Economic and Social Council decides that the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 to 21 May 2004."

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Provisional agenda and documentation for the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends to the Economic and Social Council that it approve the provisional agenda and documentation for the third session set out below.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Substantive theme: "Indigenous women".

   Documentation

   Note by the Secretariat
4. Mandated areas:
   (a) Economic and social development;
   (b) Environment;
   (c) Health;
   (d) Human rights;
   (e) Culture;
   (f) Education.

   Documentation

   Note by the Secretariat
5. Future work of the Forum.
6. Draft agenda for the fourth session of the Forum.
7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its third session.

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Agenda item 6
Future work of the Forum

Draft recommendations submitted by the Rapporteur

Future of the work of the Forum

Voluntary Fund

1. The Forum expresses its satisfaction with the establishment by the General Assembly of the Voluntary Fund for the Permanent Forum and calls upon Governments, foundations and others to give generously to the Fund in order to promote the work of the Forum.

2. The Forum expresses its support for the work of the Board of Trustees and the Advisory Group of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations and the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, urges Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities and individuals to contribute to the funds and supports the continuation of the activities of the Board of Trustees and Advisory Group of both Funds, which are considered a vital support to indigenous communities worldwide.

Secretariat of the Forum

3. The Forum takes note with satisfaction of the approval of resources by the General Assembly for the establishment of its secretariat and expresses the hope that, in accordance with the understanding reached, the remaining resources will be made available for the secretariat in the biennium 2004-2005.

Invitations to the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and cooperation with them

4. The Forum urges the United Nations Secretariat to protect the privileges and immunities of members of the Forum and recommends that immediate action be taken to address any reported incidents.

03-36949 (E) 220503

5. Should members of the Forum wish to submit working papers to the Forum under the various areas of its mandate, they are hereby formally requested to do so.

6. The Forum, taking into account the importance and potential of regional intergovernmental organizations in promoting indigenous issues in their respective regions, invites those organizations to contribute annually to its work.

Indigenous women

7. The Forum recommends to the Economic and Social Council, the relevant United Nations cooperating agencies and Governments of the region to provide technical facilities [and] grant the necessary political and moral support for organizing the Fourth Continental Summit of Indigenous Women of the Americas, to be held in Lima in March 2004.

Methods of work

8. Noting the challenge of securing the constructive participation of indigenous peoples' organizations in its sessions and ongoing work and of developing an active partnership between civil society, Governments and the United Nations system, the Forum recommends that a workshop be convened to develop innovative working methods for future sessions of the Forum, including methods of disseminating information before the sessions.

9. The Forum decides to create a database of recommendations proposed by Forum members and observers during sessions of the Forum that are not reflected in reports of the sessions, for further consideration.